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Laying the Corner Stone





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THE OFFICE

FOR THE

Laying of the Corner-Stone

OF THE

CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF  
SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE

In the City and Diocese of New-York

BY

THE RIGHT REVEREND HENRY CODMAN POTTER, D.D., LL. D.,  
BISHOP

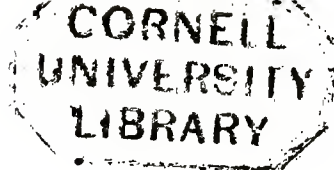
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FEAST OF SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST

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## PROCESSIONAL PSALMS.

*Domine, quis habitabit.*

**L**ORD, who shall dwell in thy tabernacle: or who shall rest upon thy holy hill?

*Even he that leadeth an uncorrupt life: and doeth the thing which is right, and speaketh the truth from his heart.*

Lord, who shall dwell in thy tabernacle: or who shall rest upon thy holy hill?

*He that hath used no deceit in his tongue, nor done evil to his neighbour: and hath not slandered his neighbour.*

Lord, who shall dwell in thy tabernacle: or who shall rest upon thy holy hill?

*He that setteth not by himself, but is lowly in his own eyes: and maketh much of them that fear the LORD.*

Whoso doeth these things: shall never fall.

*Lætatus sum.*

**I** WAS glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the LORD.

*Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem.*

Jerusalem is built as a city: that is at unity in itself.

*For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the LORD: to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the LORD.*

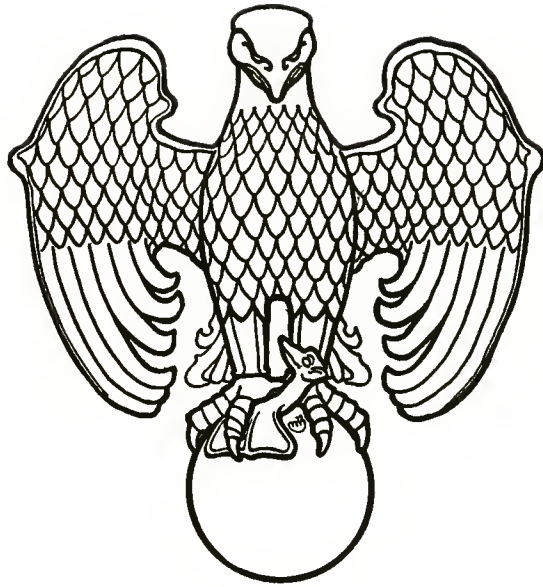
For there is the seat of judgment: even the seat of the house of David.

*O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.*

Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.

*For my brethren and companions' sakes: I will wish thee prosperity.*

Yea, because of the house of the LORD our God: I will seek to do thee good.



## Order.

¶ *The Clergy and People being assembled about the place where the Stone is to be laid, the Bishop shall say:*

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON,  
AND OF THE HOLY GHOST. AMEN.

*Bishop.*

**T**HOU art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour  
and power.

*Answer.* For thou hast created all things, and for thy  
pleasure they are, and were created.

*Bishop.* Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God  
Almighty.

*Answer.* Just and true are thy ways, thou King of Saints.

¶ *Then shall the Bishop and all the People say the Lord's Prayer, the Bishop first pronouncing,*

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
*Christ, have mercy upon us.*  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Bishop.* Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense.

*Answer.* And let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice.

*Bishop.* O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me.

*Answer.* And bring me unto thy holy hill and to thy dwelling.

¶ *Then shall he add the Collect for the Day, saying,*

MERCIFUL Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy Church, that it, being instructed by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John, may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Bishop.* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Answer.* And our mouths shall show forth thy praise.

¶ *Then shall be sung this Hymn following.*

HOLY, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,  
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.



*¶ Then shall the Bishop say,*

**B**RETHREN, we are assembled to begin the building of a house which is to be set apart to the honour and service of Almighty God, in the name of his Apostle and Evangelist Saint John; hearken therefore, and consider what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.

*℣. To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

*℟. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.*

*℣. He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*

*℟. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.*

*℣. To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.*

*℟. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.*

*℣. He that overcometh and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations. And I will give him the morning star.*

*℟. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.*

*℣. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.*

*℟. He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.*

V. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out ; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God.

R. *He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches.*

V. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with my Father in his throne.

R. *He that hath an ear let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches. Amen.*

¶ *Then shall one appointed read the Lesson, saying,*

HEAR the words of the Apostle and Evangelist Saint John, written in the Fourth Chapter of his first Epistle General, beginning at the Seventh Verse.

BELOVED, let us love one another : for love is of God ; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God ; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love ; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

Here endeth the Lesson.

*¶ Then shall be sung this Hymn.*

**O** LORD of hosts, Whose glory fills  
The bounds of the eternal hills,  
And yet vouchsafes, in Christian lands,  
To dwell in temples made with hands ;

Grant that all we who here to-day  
Rejoicing this foundation lay,  
May be in very deed Thine own,  
Built on the precious Corner-stone.

The minds that guide, endue with skill ;  
The hands that work, preserve from ill ;  
That we, who these foundations lay,  
May raise the top-stone in its day.

Both now and ever, Lord, protect  
The temple of Thine own elect ;  
Be Thou in them, and they in Thee,  
O ever blessed Trinity !

*¶ Then shall be said or sung the Nicene Creed, as followeth.*

**I** BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of  
heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible :

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God ;  
Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of  
Light, Very God of very God ; Begotten, not made ; Being of  
one substance with the Father ; By whom all things were  
made : Who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin  
Mary, And was made man : And was crucified also for us under  
Pontius Pilate ; He suffered and was buried : And the third day  
he rose again according to the Scriptures : And ascended into  
heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father : And he  
shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the  
dead ; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of  
Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son ; Who with  
the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified ;



Who spake by the Prophets: And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church: I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins: And I look for the Resurrection of the dead: And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

V. The LORD be with you.

R. *And with thy spirit.*

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY God, who fashionest the hearts of men and understandest all their works, we give thee humble thanks, that thou hast moved thy servants to begin upon this spot the building of a House of Prayer. Prosper us, O Lord, in this our undertaking, and grant us good success unto the end. Thou didst of old time inspire with wisdom those who wrought for thy temple's sake at Jerusalem, and we believe that thou hast not forsaken the generation of thy children. Give patience, skill and courage to all whose hands are busy with this work.

May they love the habitation of thy house and the place where thine honour dwelleth. Mercifully protect from harm the workmen here employed, and keep them in all their ways. Thou, Lord, in the beginning, didst lay the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they shall perish, but thou remainest; from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. Stablish and make sure the foundations of the spiritual house, and hasten the day when the whole building fitly framed together shall grow into an holy temple acceptable to thee. All which we ask through the merits and mediation of him who is himself the chief Corner-stone, thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall mention be made of the devices carved on the Stone, and information given of the articles to be deposited beneath the same.*

¶ *Then shall the Bishop say,*

Except the LORD build the house;

R. *Their labour is but lost that build it.*

V. Our help is in the name of the LORD;

R. *Who hath made heaven and earth.*

V. Blessed be the name of the Lord;

R. *From this time forth for evermore.*

¶ *Then the Bishop, assisted by the Builders, shall lay the Stone in its place, and, striking it three times with a hammer, shall say,*

**I**N the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. I lay the Corner-stone of a Church to be here builded under the name of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine: and to be devoted to the service of Almighty God as a house of prayer for all people in accordance with the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¶ *Then shall be sung this Anthem, and opportunity shall be given to those who are so minded to lay their offerings upon the Stone; the which done, there shall follow an Address.*



### Anthem.

Nehemiah ii: 18, 20. 1 Chronicles xxviii: 20.

**L**ET us rise up and build. The God of heaven he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build.

Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.

The God of heaven he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build.



### Address

By the Right Reverend WILLIAM CROSWELL DOANE, D. D., LL. D.,  
Bishop of Albany.



¶ *Then shall be said these Prayers following, the Bishop first pronouncing,*

Let thy merciful kindness, O Lord, be upon us.

R. *Like as we do put our trust in thee.*

Let us pray.

**O** LORD, without whom our labour is but lost, and with whom thy little ones go forth as the mighty; We humbly beseech thee to prosper all works in thy Church undertaken according to thy holy will, especially that to which we have this day set our

hands, granting to thy labourers an unselfish purpose, patient faith, sufficient success upon earth, and the blessedness of serving thee in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

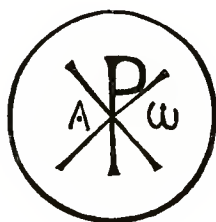
**O** GOD, who buildest for thy Majesty an eternal habitation out of living and elect stones; Assist thy suppliant people, that as thy Church increaseth in outward strength it may also be enlarged by spiritual increase; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**O** ALMIGHTY God, who hast built thy Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the head corner-stone; Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made an holy temple acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**L**IGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*¶ Then shall the Bishop let them depart with this Blessing.*

**U**NTO God's gracious mercy and protection we commend you. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace both now and evermore. *Amen.*





## RETROCESSIONAL HYMN.

**I**T came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold;  
Peace on the earth, good-will to men,  
From heaven's all-gracious King;  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

O ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow!  
Look now, for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing:  
Oh, rest beside the weary road,  
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
By prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years,  
Shall come the time foretold,  
When the new heaven and earth shall own  
The Prince of Peace their King,  
And the whole world send back the song  
Which now the angels sing.

